UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/50/595
28 November 1995
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

Fiftieth session
Agenda item 75

STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Rajab SUKAYRI (Jordan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" was included in the provisional agenda of the fiftieth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 49/81 of 15 December 1994.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 22 September 1995, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 12 October 1995, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 57 to 78, 80 and 81. The deliberations on those items took place at the 3rd to 11th meetings, from 16 to 20 and on 25 and 26 October 1995 (see A/C.1/50/PV.3-11). Structured discussions of specific subjects within the adopted thematic approach were held from 30 October to 3 November. Consideration of draft resolutions on the items took place at the 13th to 17th meetings, from 6 to 9 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.13-17). Action on the draft resolutions was taken at the 18th to 29th meetings, on 10, 13 to 17, 20 and 21 November (see A/C.1/50/PV.18-29).

4. In connection with item 75, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (A/50/300);

(b) Letter dated 16 January 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/65);

(c) Letter dated 9 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/216-S/1995/476);

(d) Letter dated 21 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/256-S/1995/505);

(e) Letter dated 29 June 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/264-S/1995/526);

(f) Letter dated 12 July 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/279-S/1995/568);

(g) Letter dated 20 July 1995 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/303-S/1995/603);

(h) Letter dated 7 August 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/50/339-S/1995/667).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/50/L.36 and Rev.1

5. On 6 November, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden and Tunisia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" (A/C.1/50/L.36), which was later also sponsored by Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

6. At the 16th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/50/L.36/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) Operative paragraph 7, which had read:

> "Encourages the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in facing terrorist activities, which pose a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation";

was revised to read:

> "Encourages the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation";

(b) Operative paragraph 8, which had read:

"Invites all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, criminal acts and illicit arms transfers, as well as illegal drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society";

was revised to read:

"Invites all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society";

7. At its 18th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.1/50/L.36/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 49/81 of 15 December 1994,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminate the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Recognizing also the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments world wide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Noting with satisfaction the positive developments in the Middle East peace process that will lead to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region and therefore to promoting confidence-building measures and a good-neighbourly spirit among the countries of the area,

Expressing satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for more joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 2/

1. Reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

1/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

2/ A/50/300.

3. Commends the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity;

4. Recognizes that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development as well as other obstacles in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

5. Calls upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

6. Encourages all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures as well as by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

7. Encourages the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation;

8. Invites all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

9. Encourages the continued widespread support among the Mediterranean countries for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as the ongoing regional consultations to create the appropriate conditions for its convening;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".